

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action dated April 20, 2004, claims 39-45 and 50-118 were pending. In the Office Action, claims 50, 51, 53-57, 62-64, 66, 67 and 69 were rejected, claims 39-45 and 73-118 were allowed, and claims 52, 58-61, 65, 68 and 70-72 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this response, 50-72 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 119-138 have been added. Reconsideration of the present application as amended, including claims 39-45 and 73-138 is respectfully requested.

Claims 50, 51, 53-57, 62-64, 66, 67 and 69 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,387,130 to Stone et al. As an initial matter, it is noted that Stone et al. is provisionally prior art under 35 USC §102(e). Applicants reserve the right to swear behind the filing date of Stone et al. in this application or in any continuing applications. Claims 50-72 have been cancelled in this response without acquiescence in any rejections made thereof and without prejudice to pursuit in a continuing application. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 50, 51, 53-57, 62-64, 66, 67 and 69 is now moot.

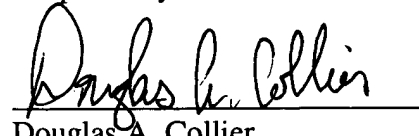
Several additional claims 119-138 are presented in this response to rewrite allowable dependent claims in independent form. For example, claim 119 re-presents original claim 68 in independent form. It should be noted that claim 60 as originally filed has been incorporated with claim 68 to form claim 119 since claim 68 was indicated to be allowable in the first office action before original claim 60 was amended. New claims 120-124 correspond to original dependent claims 63-67, and new claims 125-128 correspond to original dependent claims 69-72, but are renumbered to depend directly or

indirectly from claim 119. Accordingly, claims 119-128 have been presented to place allowable subject matter in allowable form, and are thus allowable as indicated in the Office Action. /

Claim 129 re-presents original claim 70 in independent form. It should be noted that claim 60 as originally filed has been incorporated with claim 70 to form claim 129 since claim 70 was indicated to be allowable in the first office action before original claim 60 was amended. New claims 130-136 correspond to original dependent claims 63-69, and new claims 137-138 correspond to original dependent claims 71-72, but are renumbered to depend directly or indirectly from claim 129. Accordingly, claims 129-138 have been presented to place allowable subject matter in allowable form, and are thus allowable as indicated in the Office Action.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, claims 39-45 and 73-138 are in condition for allowance. Action towards a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any outstanding matters concerning the present application.

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